Boston, Dec. 23, 1838.

Dear sister Mary:

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"Charity endureth all things, believeth all things." Charity means love. If you have any love for me, then I am emboldened to believe that you have patiently *endured* my long silence, *believing* that it has not been owing to any want of brotherly affection, but rather to a multiplicity of cares and duties. How much I respect and esteem you, I shall not now say — because such an expression is needless.

Ever since your arrival in Providence, we have been confidently hoping to welcome you to our snug little tenement in Nassau Court. But, it seems, you have made up your mind not to visit us at present. Well, I am sincerely sorry for this. I hope you are not taking advantage of my "non-resistance" principles; for you know I cannot coerce you. True, in resolving to remain in Providence, you are far from being blameworthy; because it is certain that you can spend your time much more pleasantly and profitably there than in Boston. Yet I would fain intercede for at least "a flying visit" — promising that you shall return whenever time goes heavily, or the attractions of home are stronger than the novelties of a crowded city. Had you not better revoke your decision? [The annual meeting of our State Anti-Slavery Society will be held on the 23d of January; and will be well worth your attendance, on the score of interest. I anticipate an animated, almost a stormy scene. Facts are daily coming to my ears, which show that the spirit of sectarianism is busy at its old game of division — working in darkness, and secretly endeavoring to transfer our sacred cause to other hands. The leaders in this work of mischief are clerical abolitionists. The plot is extensively laid, and the wires are pulled skilfully. It will be managed much more ingeniously than was [illegible] the "Clerical Appeal" affair. Torrey, of Salem, (formerly of Providence,) is one of the most active of the plotters. I understand the plan is, to rally at our annual meeting, elect a different board of managers, start a new anti-slavery paper, to be the organ of the Society—&c. &c. The "woman question" is also to be met and settled so as to suit the priesthood, or the probability is, there will be a division. Here, then, are materials for an excited anniversary. I do not mean that my annual report shall be a quiet document. Now, will you not come and be a spectator? And bring, if practicable, our true-hearted friend Phebe with you. We shall be happy to welcome her under our roof. What will be the result of this matter is now problematical. I think, however, that the counsels of the froward will be carried headlong. Perhaps, after all, the plotters will be afraid to divulge their purposes, and will conclude that discretion is the better part of valor. I hope so; for every such outbreak but encourages the common enemy, and breeds mutual distrust and jealousy.

#U [The Anti-Slavery Fair, in this city, was held three days, and closed on Friday evening. The proceeds amounted to $1100—a sum much larger than has been taken on any previous occasion. Three years ago, it could not have been held without a riot. It presented an animated scene. The hall was tastefully decorated, and the tables were covered with useful and beautiful articles, adapted to every variety of taste. Every thing was conducted with propriety and order.] After the Fair closed, there remained on hand a valuable stock of articles, which will be sold ~~at~~ as opportunity offers. So much for the skill, industry, liberality and enterprise of the female abolitionists of Boston and vicinity. The ladies of Salem are to try their luck next, on Christmas day; and then our Lynn friends, who intend giving a share of their receipts to the support of the Liberator.

Bro. H. C. Wright was with us last week, but has returned to Newburyport to rest a short time in the bosom of his family. He has prepared a tract on human governments, which, when published, will doubtless stir up the feelings of community. It shows, in a simple and lucid manner, that national organizations, as now constructed, are essentially anti-christian, and utterly at war with the gospel of Christ. The more I look into the subject, the deeper is my conviction that the principles of the Non-Resistance Society are immutably true; that whoever feels unable or unwilling to forgive all manner of injuries, and the worst of enemies, has no right to rank himself among the followers of Christ; that the attempt of men to govern themselves by external rules and physical penalties is and ever must be futile; and that from the assumption, that man has a right to exercise dominion over his brother, has proceeded every form of injustice and oppression with which the earth has been afflicted. Modern christianity is, to a great extent, an imposture. There is much said about the cross of Christ — but who is willing to endure that cross? We hear much about the necessity of having faith in God — but who believes the record that he has given? A great ado is made about regeneration — but who receives the Messiah as one able to cleanse from all sin? — now and forever?

I agree with Phebe, respecting Elleanor Eldridge. Her case is certainly a hard one; and yet she is comparatively in affluent circumstances. I do not marvel that she desires to get justice, but I fear her heart is set upon the perishable things of earth. What I said in the Liberator about her, was cheerfully written — yet it was extorted by her importunity. She has had bad advisers, who have led her to think that her case ~~was~~ is one of *national* importance, and that abolitionists universally would bestir themselves mightily in her behalf! — She brought with her to Boston, 200 copies of her Memoirs, expecting to sell them forthwith. Weeks have elapsed — and notwithstanding my recommendation of her work, not ten copies have been sold. I have on hand in the house, 160 copies. When she went away, she said she intended to return shortly, and bring another trunk full with her. It is about time to expect her. I wish, therefore, that you or Phebe would tell her not to come — at least, not to send any more copies. I will do the best I can with what is on hand.

You will be glad to know that the health of dear mother is much better than it was in Providence. She considers herself "perfectly well." Helen has had a troublesome cough, but is now better. Cecilia has taken a severe cold, but is able to keep about. George Thompson has had the influenza, which has puffed up his face like a London Alderman's. As for little Willie, he is sprightly, intelligent, charming — a pearl, a paragon, a non-pareil — &c. &c. &c. He is just eleven months old — can say ma and pa — walks very readily about the room, without any help — and is still remarkable for his benignity. I love him dearly, but incomparably less than I do one of the simplest principles of the government of God. If I did not, I should not be worthy of my Master.

We all felt much indebted to you for your letter, and also to Phebe for her friendly note. I hope to be able to write to her shortly. Give our united regards to her and her mother, who, I hope, enjoys her health better than formerly. Our kind remembrances must also be given to Mrs. Flagg and her husband. We shall be glad to see them at our house, at any time. It is needless to add, that we send special remembrances to sister Charlotte and husband. If our bro. George is in P., say to him that I deem it of real importance that he should be at our annual meeting, if possible. He must send on as many staunch friends as he can, on that occasion. Are there any persons in Providence, who are willing to subscribe to our contemplated non-resistance publication? It will be open to free discussion. Let us hear from you again soon — and remember that a trip from Providence to Boston is almost as easy as a ride from Providence to Pawtucket.

Your loving brother,

Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

☞ If Elleanor should want her books returned, or any number of them, I will forward them according to her directions. It is not probable that one half of them will be sold, because her case is a local one, and not actually one of suffering.

Single. — Paid.

BOSTON DEC 25

PAID

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Miss Mary R. Benson,
Care of Mr. Henry Anthony,
Providence, R. I.